

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-05 L-03 DLOS-09
SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 INRE-00 /081 W
-----077937 051921Z /41

O R 051809Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5479
INFO AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 1506

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, BB, US

SUBJ: BARBADOS NAVAL FACILITY NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A) STATE 135116 B) BRIDGETOWN 0984

1. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER HENRY FORDE TOLD ME MORNING
JUNE 5 THE GOB HAD PLANNED TO SUGGEST NEGOTIATION DATES AFTER
AUGUST 14 AS MOST CONVENIENT FOR THE GOB. AFTER SOME PRESSING
HE AGREED TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF THE JULY 12-15 PERIOD
AS SUGGESTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. FORDE SAID THAT THE
PARTICIPATION IN THE NEGOTIATIONS OF SOLICITOR GENERAL
OLIVER BROWNE WAS MOST IMPORTANT AND THAT UPON THE RETURN OF
BROWNE TO BARBADOS JUNE 15, THE GOB WOULD DECIDE ON THE POS-
SIBILITY OF JULY DATES.

2. FORDE SAID HE PLANNED TO BE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. FROM
JUNE 16 THROUGH THE 26 IN ORDER TO ATTEND BOTH THE
CARIBBEAN GROUP AND OASGA MEETINGS. HE
SUGGESTED THE DEPARTMENT WORK WITH GOB AMBASSADOR OLIVER
JACKMAN TO CONFIRM A DATE MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TO FORDE
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AND AMBASSADOR ALDRICH FOR LUNCH BETWEEN THOSE DATES.
HE SEEMED TO PREFER JUNE 25.

3. FORDE WILL BE ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT AND WEEK'S
HOLIDAY IN GREAT BRITAIN FROM ABOUT JULY 16 THROUGH ABOUT
AUGUST 6. THE VISIT ALSO INCLUDES THE ANNUAL GOB
HEADS OF MISSION MEETING IN LONDOC. HE SAID HE AWARE

OF AMBASSADOR ALDRICH'S LAW OF THE SEA COMMITMENTS IN
AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER AND REPEATED HE WOULD TRY TO
ARRANGE FOR MEETINGS IN JULY 12-15 PERIOD.

4. COMMENT: AS WE PREVIOUSLY HAVE STATED TO THE
DEPARTMENT THE GOB IS OBVIOUSLY NOT IN A HURRY TO
REINITIATE DISCUSSION OF WHAT THEY VIEW AS
A POLITICALLY UNACCEPTABLE OFFER ON OUR PART FOR
RENEWING THE NAVFAC AGREEMENT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT GOB
NOW CLAIMS TO HAVE COPIES OF CABLES BETWEEN WASHINGTON
AND LONDON AROUND 1961 IN WHICH THE U.S. PROMISED
THIRD-STAGE TALKS ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO BARBADOS.
THE GOB UNDOUBTEDLY EXPECTS THAT LATER IN THE YEAR
OUR ECONOMIC AND POSSIBLY MILITARY ASSISTANCE PLANS
WILL HAVE EVOLVED TO A POINT PERMITTING THEM TO AGREE
TO AN EXTENSION. THE GOB, OF COURSE, WANTS TO EXTEND
THE AGREEMENT BUT ON POLITICALLY DEFENSIBLE TERMS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRIDGE01506
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780234-1133
Format: TEL
From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780698/aaaadfwg.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0b33be92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 135116, 78 BRIDGETOWN 984
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2495470
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BARBADOS NAVAL FACILITY NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: MARR, BB, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0b33be92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014